(b) the action being taken by Government to improve the food quality alongwith the action being taken against sub-standard food material suppliers; and

(c) the reasons for providing mineral water of private companies in Shatabdi trains despite the availability of 'Rail Neer'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Data in regard to complaints is not maintained train-wise for All Indian Railways.

(b) Improvement in catering services is an ongoing process. This includes maintenance of hygiene, standard and quality of food services, introduction of good quality packaging/use of biodegradable material, revision of menus, procurement of raw material from approved sources etc. Regular/surprise checks are conducted by the railway administration to monitor the catering services and remedial action is taken.

(c) There are only two Railneer Plants operational at present from which packaged drinking water is supplied to Pantry Cars and other static units as far as practicable as total requirements of Indian Railways cannot be met by these two plants alone.

Tenders of work of Silchar-Lumding track conversion

1404. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tenders have been invited for work of Silchar-Lumding track conversion;

(b) whether the work order has been given to the lowest bidder and

(c) the details as to how many local and small contractors were awarded work order to carry out the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Tenders have been invited for Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion project and have been finalized as per railway's extant procedure and guidlines. Most of the tenders are awarded to the contractors settled in Assam.